



2020 South Dakota Legislature

House Concurrent Resolution 6021

Introduced by: **Representative Hammock**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Supporting the continued operation of the D.C. Booth**
2 **Historic National Fish Hatchery.**

3 WHEREAS, sport fishing routinely draws more than 268,000 participants in South Dakota
4 annually, constituting an important component of South Dakota's economy, with angler
5 expenditures exceeding \$313 million in 2011 and creating 3,032 jobs; and

6 WHEREAS, the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) received more
7 than \$8.6 million in revenue from the sale of fishing licenses in fiscal year 2014, which
8 represents a significant portion of the agency's budget; and

9 WHEREAS, trout produced in both state and federal hatchery systems and stocked into
10 waters throughout South Dakota is important in maintaining sport fishing and its economic
11 benefits; and

12 WHEREAS, the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery & Archives, established in 1896,
13 has stocked waters in South Dakota, including Ellsworth Air Force Base and tribal waters on
14 the Pine Ridge, Rosebud, Cheyenne River, Standing Rock, and Yankton Sioux Reservations;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery & Archives serves as a key
17 economic contributor to the city of Spearfish, bringing in \$2.1 million annually or a return of
18 \$62 for every \$1 invested; and D.C. Booth is the city's top tourist attraction with over 160,000
19 visitors annually with \$840,000 being spent annually by nonresident visitors who attribute
20 their visits to Spearfish to the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery; and

21 WHEREAS, over \$141,000 is brought in annually in local and state tax and fee revenue
22 from the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery & Archives; and

1 WHEREAS, the staffing, expertise, resources, and a large portion of the funding for the
2 operation and maintenance of the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery & Archives is
3 supplied by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); and

4 WHEREAS, the USFWS completed a study predicting that the closure of the D.C. Booth
5 Historic National Fish Hatchery will curtail the stocking of South Dakota's waters, entailing a
6 loss of associated economic benefits; and

7 WHEREAS, the continuation of the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery's role as a
8 trout producer, and an educational and tourist facility is extremely important to South
9 Dakota's economy and sport fishing;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Fifth
11 Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that:

12 (1) The South Dakota Legislature supports the continued operation of the D.C. Booth
13 Historic National Fish Hatchery and urges the USFWS, in partnership with the
14 SDGFP, to maintain its current mission of stocking South Dakota waters for
15 recreational fishing and the recovery of threatened and endangered species;

16 (2) The South Dakota Legislature supports the operation of the hatchery and adjacent
17 federal lands in a manner that promotes public recreation and scientific research
18 and educational activities; and

19 (3) The South Dakota Legislature urges the Department of Environment and Natural
20 Resources and the SDGFP to work with the USFWS to protect, support, and improve
21 the operation of the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this House Concurrent Resolution be sent to all
23 members of the South Dakota delegation to the United States Congress, the Secretary of the
24 Interior, the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and Governor Kristi Noem.